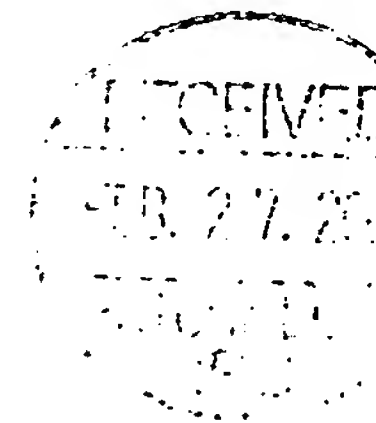


From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCTNOTIFICATION CONCERNING
SUBMISSION OR TRANSMITTAL
OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

(PCT Administrative Instructions, Section 411)

To:

IWAHASHI, Fumio
c/o Matsushita
Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.
1006, Oaza Kadoma
Kadoma-shi, Osaka
5718501
JAPON

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 10 February 2006 (10.02.2006)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference P041191P0	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
International application No. PCT/JP2005/022725	International filing date (day/month/year) 06 December 2005 (06.12.2005)
International publication date (day/month/year) Not yet published	Priority date (day/month/year) 06 December 2004 (06.12.2004)
Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD. et al	

1. By means of this Form, which replaces any previously issued notification concerning submission or transmittal of priority documents, the applicant is hereby notified of the date of receipt by the International Bureau of the priority document(s) relating to all earlier application(s) whose priority is claimed. Unless otherwise indicated by the letters "NR", in the right-hand column or by an asterisk appearing next to a date of receipt, the priority document concerned was submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b).
2. (If applicable) The letters "NR" appearing in the right-hand column denote a priority document which, on the date of mailing of this Form, had not yet been received by the International Bureau under Rule 17.1(a) or (b). Where, under Rule 17.1(a), the priority document must be submitted by the applicant to the receiving Office or the International Bureau, but the applicant fails to submit the priority document within the applicable time limit under that Rule, the attention of the applicant is directed to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.
3. (If applicable) An asterisk (*) appearing next to a date of receipt, in the right-hand column, denotes a priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau but not in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b) (the priority document was received after the time limit prescribed in Rule 17.1(a) or the request to prepare and transmit the priority document was submitted to the receiving Office after the applicable time limit under Rule 17.1(b)). Even though the priority document was not furnished in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b), the International Bureau will nevertheless transmit a copy of the document to the designated Offices, for their consideration. In case such a copy is not accepted by the designated Office as the priority document, Rule 17.1(c) provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.

<u>Priority date</u>	<u>Priority application No.</u>	<u>Country or regional Office or PCT receiving Office</u>	<u>Date of receipt of priority document</u>
06 December 2004 (06.12.2004)	2004-352446	JP	12 January 2006 (12.01.2006)

The International Bureau of WIPO
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Form PCT/IB/304 (January 2004)

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CQWL687I

ATTACHMENT E

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/JP2005/022725

International filing date (day/month/year)
06.12.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
06.12.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
F04B39/00

Applicant
MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas
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Authorized Officer

Kolby, L

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**International application No.
PCT/JP2005/022725**Box No. I Basis of the opinion**

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/JP2005/022725

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43*bis*.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	4
	No: Claims	1-3,5-7
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-7
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-7
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1 : EP 1 338 795 A (MATSUSHITA REFRIGERATION COMPANY) 27 August 2003 (2003-08-27)
D2: PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2003, no. 12, 5 December 2003 (2003-12-05) -& JP 2004 293464 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), 21 October 2004 (2004-10-21)
D3: US 2004/179955 A1 (LEE SUNG TAE) 16 September 2004 (2004-09-16)
D4: PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 08, 6 October 2000 (2000-10-06) & JP 2000 130147 A (MATSUSHITA REFRIG CO LTD), 9 May 2000 (2000-05-09)
D5: US-B1-6 206 135 (KIM TAE MIN ET AL) 27 March 2001 (2001-03-27)
D6: PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2003, no. 04, 2 April 2003 (2003-04-02) & JP 2002 349436 A (MATSUSHITA REFRIG CO LTD), 4 December 2002 (2002-12-04)

2. INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) (see e.g. figures 1-3): A hermetic compressor comprising: a hermetic container (35) storing an oil (46), and a compressing element (36) accommodated in the hermetic container (35) and compressing a refrigerant gas, wherein the compressing element has: a compressing chamber (39), a cylinder (38) forming the compressing chamber (39), a piston (40) inserted into the cylinder (38) and reciprocating, and a suction muffler (44) whose one end communicates with the compressing chamber, and the suction muffler has: a sound deadening space (49), a gas flow forming part (50,51) forming a gas flow flowing in a constant direction (from the inlet pipe (50) to the outlet pipe (51)) in the sound deadening space (49), and an oil discharged opening provided in a downstream side of the gas flow in a lower part of the sound deadening space.

2.1 As can be seen from the above, document D1 discloses in combination all the features defined in independent claim 1. Hence the subject-matter of this claim is not new (Article 33(2) PCT).

2.2 Furthermore, also the documents D2-D6 disclose the subject-matter of the

independent claim 1.

3 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-7

The dependent claims 2-7 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT), since they are either known from the documents D1-D6 or relate to technical measures well known in the field of compressors.